

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment claims 17-18 and 21-26 are pending in the application.

1. Election of Species

Claims 21-26 have been made subject to an election of species requirement. In particular, the species are said to be as follows: different processes for preparing polyester catalyzed by different enzyme selected from hydrolases, including carboxyl ester hydrolases, esterases, proteases or lipases. It is the PTO's position that Applicant must elect a single species as one single process catalyzed by specific enzyme.

In response to the Examiner's election of species requirement, Applicants hereby elect the process for preparing polyester catalyzed by lipases, with traverse. Claims 22, 25, and 26 read on the elected species.

This election is being made without prejudice to Applicants' rights with respect to the unelected claims, including the right to file divisional application(s) thereon. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the election of species requirement in view of the following remarks.

Applicants respectfully submit that searching the variously cited species does not place a serious burden on the Examiner but would unduly burden Applicants by requiring them to file and prosecute multiple applications, and pay fees and maintain multiple patents, to obtain the patent protection to which they are entitled.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the election of species requirement.

CONCLUSION

Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the Application and pending claims are patentable in view of the foregoing amendments and/or remarks. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. As always, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the Undersigned by telephone if direct conversation would be helpful.

Respectfully Submitted,

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